

The forgotten : Child Soldiers

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Child soldiers have been slowly forgotten about by the public over the last century. There are only a few groups of people are trying to fight for these children. February 12 is national Red Hand day, this day was established to raise awareness of the child soldier issue.

As a visual artist, I created a painting, my work entitled *Invisible Children* utilizes acrylic and wildfire blacklight paint to symbolize the underreported presence of children in global conflict, the hidden image represents the light we need to shine on these issues

KEY FACTS

Total: 250,000 - 300,000 child soldiers world wide.

*Child soldiers are used in Africa, Chad, the Central African Republic, Sudan and South Sudan, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of Congo, Colombia, India, Iraq, Uganda, Yemen. Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand

*They are taken from villages and homes, some villages are even forced to give a number of kids each year to stay safe.

*40% are girls

*Child soldiers are used as fighter, couriers and sex slaves.

*Some soldiers have been reported to be as young as 7

"Invisible Children"*

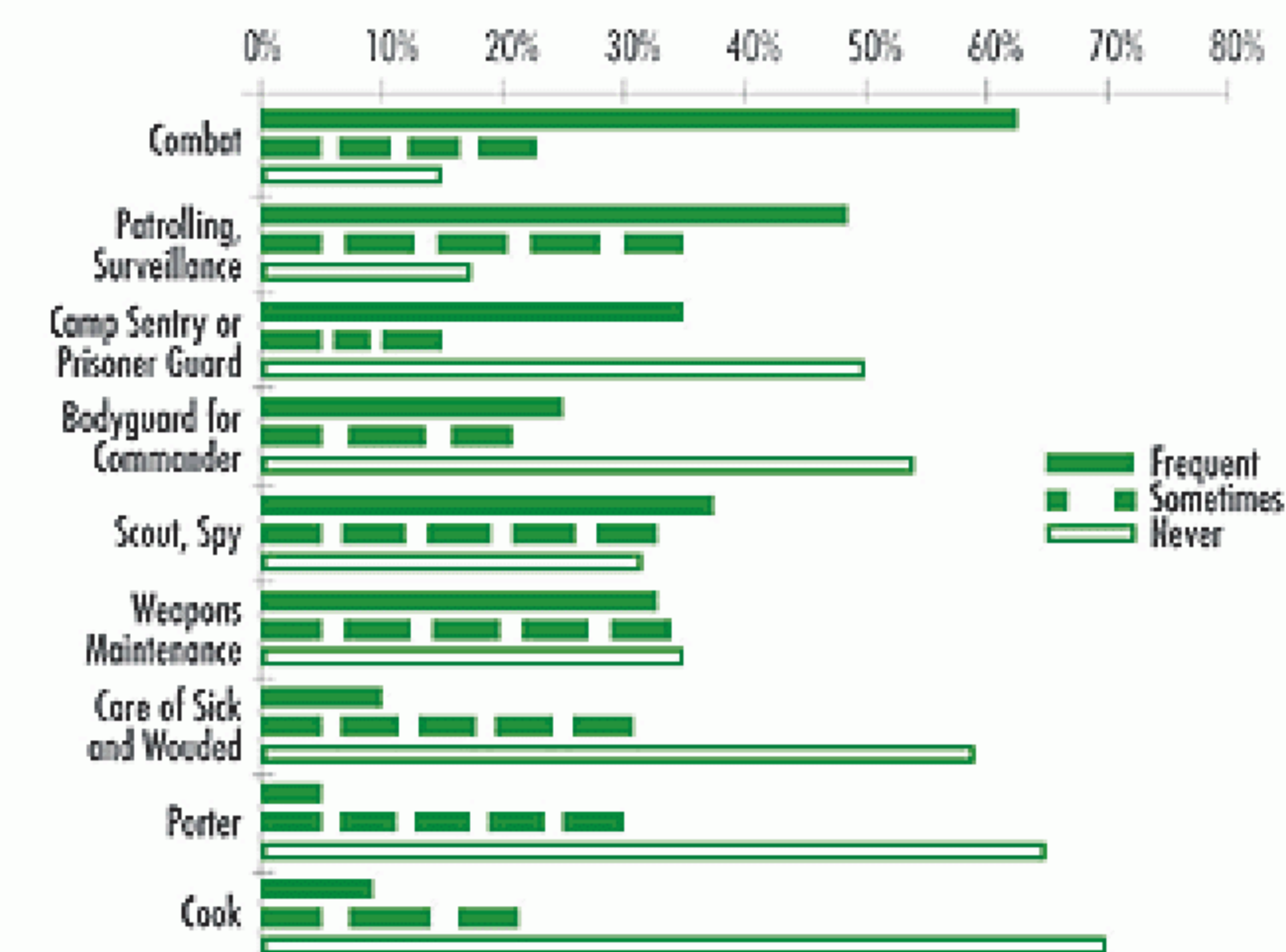
16x20

Acrylic and wildfire blacklight paint

* Process

- Took reference photos at elmwood park.
- Choose a photo
- Drew outline
- Painted in acrylic
- Painted over with blacklight paint.

Sample Child Soldier Tasks and Duties



What has been done

The UN passed the **Child Soldier Prevention Act of 2008** to help stop the use of child soldiers. The UN then passed the **Child Soldier Prevention Act of 2017** amendment which states that those who sign will not give assistance to countries that use child soldiers.



In 2014, with UNICEF, the Special Representative launched the campaign "**Children, Not Soldiers**" to bring about a global consensus that child soldiers should not be used in conflict. Thanks to them over 115,000 Child soldiers have been released worldwide since 2000.

References

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